

**EMT-1 REGULATORY TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 28, 2001  
Naval Training Center  
San Diego, CA**

**I. Introductions**

A. Self-introductions were made.

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>EMSA STAFF PRESENT</b>	<b>ALTERNATES PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>ALTERNATES ABSENT</b>
Pat Kramm	Sean Trask	Bruce Kenagy	Nancy Casazza	David Nevins
Debbie Meier		Debbie Notturmo	Bob Cordray	Jeff Page
Debi Moffat		Karen Petrilla	Elaine Dethlefsen	
Veronica Shepardson			Jean English	
Susan Smith			Donna Ferracone	
John Tysell			Bruce Haynes	
Kevin White			Dave Magnino	
Todd Wilhoyte			Steve Maiero	
			Tom McGinnis	
			Byron Parsons	
			John Pritting	
			Marco Randazzo	
			Bob Repar	
			Luann Underwood	
		<b>GUESTS</b>		
		Fred Claridge		
		Steve Wood		
		Donna Batteau		
		Mary Jo Vincent		

**II. Minutes**

Approved with the following correction:

Correction to page 3, the Nay votes for the motion made by Dr. Tysell was only 2, not 3 that was indicated in the minutes.

**III. Agenda**

Approved as written.

**IV. Informational Update**

A. The Task Force was updated on the following items

1. At the last meeting the Task Force agreed to ground rules on voting. There is a correction on the EMS Authority's vote on motions. Initially the EMS Authority stated that they have one vote, the correction is that EMS Authority does not have a vote on motions.
2. At the last meeting questions were raised in regards to the National Registry (NR) skills exam. The question was can a training program administer the approved skills exam or does the exam need to be administered by an independent party? Sean e-mailed Bill Brown of the NR who indicated that the training program could administer the approved skills certification exam.
3. Sean made a correction to a statement that the NR has studied continued competency of their certified EMT-Is based on the NR's recertification requirements. Sean confirmed with Bill Brown of the NR via e-mail that the NR has not studied or published a study regarding continued competency of NR EMT-Is base on their recertification requirements. George

Washington University will be conducting a study to determine the continued competency of NR paramedics, but this will not be completed for some time.

4. The Education and Personnel Committee of the Vision Project is recommending that the EMT-I Task Force revisit the EMT-I recertification process and consider adding specific topics to the continuing education requirement and competency testing.
5. Sean needs to follow-up with the constituent groups in regards to representative attendance at Task Force meetings.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. EMT-I Certification Examination:**

Representatives from San Diego County EMS Agency and Orange County EMS Agency were present to discuss with the Task Force their experiences with the NR and the NR EMT-I Certification exam. Both EMS systems have adopted the NR exam as their EMT-I certifying written exam.

1. Steve Wood and Donna Batteau were present from San Diego County EMS Agency and made the following points:
  - a. Because the NR EMT-I exam is statistically validated, this takes the liability away from the county.
  - b. The DOT EMT-I curriculum does not match the local scope of practice.
  - c. Turn around times for test results take approximately 3 to 4 weeks even with overnight mailing to the NR.
  - d. NR certification allows inter-state reciprocity.
  - e. Security is very tight, training programs do not get to see the exams. Recertification exam, called the assessment exam, is not the current EMT-I NR certification exam, but a previously used NR EMT-I exam.
  - f. San Diego has only one approved testing site, which will travel to various sites to administer the exam. This way security is maintained by one site and costs are administered by one entity.
  - g. NR introduces two new EMT-I certification exams per year and has 5 different exams cycling throughout the US.
  - h. It is recommended, that if the state adopts the NR EMT-I exam, the EMS Authority enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the NR to include performance criteria.
2. Mary Jo Vincent was present from the Orange County EMS Agency and made the following points:
  - a. Some time ago, Orange County needed to rewrite their EMT-I certifying exams and was under the impression that the state was considering adopting the NR EMT-I exam and elected to adopt the NR exam for their county.
  - b. Even though all of the training programs in Orange County agreed to the NR EMT-I exam and were oriented to the NR exam, there was a period of time when there was a drop in test scores. Orange County EMS met with the training programs and the NR and discovered that the training programs were not emphasizing enough critical thinking skills; the emphasis was on rote memory. The NR exam places a heavy emphasis on critical thinking skills.
  - c. Orange County uses the Regional Health Occupational Program Centers for their test sites.
  - d. Ms. Vincent gave an example of how the NR defends their exam. The NR was sued by an EMT in Texas on test validity and NR won the lawsuit.
  - e. The NR will not allow a proctor to read the test, but will allow a person with a documented learning disability extra time to complete the test.
  - f. The NR provides statistics to the certifying agency that shows the scores by topic and pass rates by training program.
  - g. The NR passing score is 70 percent.

- h. The NR allows three failed attempts before the candidate needs to remediate with additional continuing education. The candidate gets three more attempts and if they fail after the sixth attempt, the candidate must retake the entire basic course.
  - i. NR asks the applicant about felony convictions and not misdemeanors. In cases where applicants disclose criminal convictions, the NR usually refers the case to the local certifying authority for final decision to see if they will issue a certification.
  - j. The NR is very particular with respect to the completeness of the NR application. If anything is missing, the application will be returned and the test not scored, which delays the processing of results. It is very helpful to have a person who reviews the applications for completeness before the tests and applications are mailed to NR.
- 3. Sean will check with the NR to see who can hold and administer the exam. A question was asked if a city government's fire department was approved for EMT-I training and was a certifying authority, could the city's human resources agency administer the exam?
- 4. A number of questions were raised over the last year in regards to the NR, which seemed to be related to experiences with the NR paramedic exam. The NR's EMT-I and paramedic exams are different. Sean will see if a comparison of the two exams is available and bring this back to the Task Force.
- 5. The Task Force also asked for something in writing that the representatives can take back to their constituent groups to indicate how the Task Force is mitigating concerns raised. Sean will update the list of Task Force Objectives to indicate what progress has been made and what concessions have been made in regards to the NR EMT-I exam.
- 6. The members present were asked what their issues were with respect to state adopting the NR EMT-I exam:
  - a. Southern California Fire Chiefs – The issues are much clearer but concerns still remain regarding the cost of the exam, the separation from the training program and turn around time on test results.
  - b. ENA – Supports a standardized exam.
  - c. SEIU – Supports a standardized exam as long as it is the same exam for both public and private EMT-Is. Turn around time on test results is not as big an issue since it pertains to initial certifications and not recertification.
  - d. Northern California Fire Chiefs – Concern about the costs of the exam. See the need for standardization but do not have the concern of inter-state reciprocity because their EMTs stay in state. If the exams can be done in-house, Nor. Cal. Fire Chiefs could agree to the exam.
  - e. Commission on EMS Educational Technical Advisory Group – Need an evaluation tool of some sort and the state needs an option out if the NR testing process does not work out. There really is not much to compare to to determine if there is a better alternative. Would like to see the differences between the EMT-I and paramedic exams in a comparison table.
  - f. California Professional Firefighters – Supportive of a standardized test process for all EMT-Is, public and private. The state should be cautious because once a decision is made, the state is stuck with it, need an option out.
  - g. California Council of EMS Educators – Supports standardized test, concerned with the NR having a monopoly.
  - h. California Association of Health Maintenance Organizations – Standardization is the way to go, advantages outweigh the disadvantages. The state needs a MOU to set parameters.
  - i. California Paramedic Program Directors Association – Supportive of standardization. There is a concern about academically challenged individuals potentially having difficulties with the exam.

- B. Committee Report: EMT Approving Authority  
This topic was tabled due to time.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Review of Task Force Objectives – This was deferred due to time constraints.

**VII. Discussion:**

All discussion items were deferred due to time constraints.

Next meeting will be September 17, 2001 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, in Sacramento. Sean will check the availability of the Host Hotel at the Sacramento International Airport.

Recorder: Karen Petrilla